

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the Application in view of the above amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

### Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 were previously pending.

Claim 11 was previously cancelled.

Claims 4, 5 and 9 have been allowed.

Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 10 stand rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of allowed claim 9.

Claim 9 has been cancelled.

Claims 12-19 are added. No new matter has been added.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 4, 5 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. The claims are currently objected to for depending upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

### Objections to the Claims

Claim 1 is objected to for informalities. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-3, 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,727,699 to Gilcrease. Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilcrease. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 9. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 2, 3, 6-8 and 10 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Newly added claim 12 includes the allowable features of previously pending claim 4 and its base claim. Thus, claim 12 is patentable over the cited references. Newly added claims 13-19 depend from claim 12 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 12.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated June 26, 2006 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 1-8, 10 and 12-19 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. A prompt and favorable action in that regard is earnestly solicited.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below

Dated: October 4, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Louis J. DelJuidice

Registration No.: 47,522  
DARBY & DARBY P.C.  
P.O. Box 5257  
New York, New York 10150-5257  
(212) 527-7700  
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)  
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant